

LAURA QUATTROCHI: Thanks, Rob. Can you guys hear me? Cool. Good afternoon. My name is Laura Quattrochi. I'm a current resident of Birmingham, Alabama and am originally from Huntsville. From an early age, I have always been environmentally conscious and continue to advocate for the environment and all those that inhabit it. Coal has been a main talking point within my family, primarily due to the fact that my father is a senior research earth scientist for NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville. I'm here to reiterate how coal and climate change correlate. According to an article by Climate Central, every month in 2016 has made record to being the warmest, including this month. In fact, this past year actually set records to being the longest streak in temperature data that is kept by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It boggles my mind that to this day, people continue to refrain from acknowledging the impact that coal and CO2 emissions have on climate change. I remember visiting a friend in Oak Grove, Alabama, which is right beside Hueytown, a coal mining city. As soon as I stepped foot into her home, I noticed that the landscaping was sloped, and the doors wouldn't close properly due to the fact that the hinges weren't even. When I asked her why that was, she stated it was because -- it was because their home was literally sitting on top of a coal mine. She added that her neighbors were forced to relocate to a different part of their neighborhood because their home had sunken in, and it was no longer inhabitable. Coal is destroying the lives of individuals, communities, the environment, the future. I urge you to reconsider the use of coal. And I ask for the utilization of reliable clean energy for electricity instead of burning fossil fuels. I also ask you to acknowledge that we are the concern, we are the problem, we are destroying this planet, we are making excuses for our actions. Without a general consensus, nothing will get accomplished. Thank you.